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UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 000162

SENSITIVE SIPDIS STATE FOR WHA/CAR - KAREN MCISAAC USUN FOR JEFFREY RENEAU

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL UN KPKO MASS HA XL

SUBJECT: TFHA01: St. Lucia, Dominica may have Creole-Speaking Police Available for Deployment

11. (SBU) Embassy contacts in St. Lucia and Dominica have each signaled that they may be able to supply up to 15 Creole-speaking law enforcement personnel for assignment with the UN in Haiti. St. Lucia is much further along in its thinking; the special services unit (SSU) deputy chief told Emboff that Creole speakers in the force have been instructed to be prepared to deploy, but acknowledged that there have been no detailed discussions internally about how a force contribution might play out. Meanwhile, neither country's foreign ministry has received communication from the UN or from their own UN missions in New York about any requests for such assistance by MINUSTAH or UNDPKO.

12. (SBU) While there is political will and even desire in St. Lucia at least to provide such assistance, it is unlikely the government will move absent a formal request for personnel by the UN system. While there will be some domestic sensitivity to supplying police overseas in the midst of a domestic crime boom, we believe St. Lucia will probably be willing to contribute the personnel. It should be noted, though, that the personnel themselves lack the resources to be self-sustaining on arrival. By our estimate, they would require:

MREs (90 per person for 30 days)
Water (6 gallons per person for 3 days)
Uniforms (2 per person)
Boots (1 pair per person)
Tents (1 tent per each 12 personnel)
Cots (1 per person)
Airlift

13. (SBU) If these needs can be accommodated by the UN system and/or the USG, St. Lucian SSU officers - even in small numbers - could serve a useful role as embedded interpreters in larger units deployed in Haiti.

HARDT